

THE LILY OF

Fairest flower that ever



THE MOHAWKS

bloomed among true men

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In Memoriam

FATHER JOHN J. WYNNE, S.J.

On the night of Tuesday, November 30, 1948, God called to his eternal reward Father John J. Wynne, S.J., champion of the Cause of Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha for the past twenty-five years. To the clients of Venerable Kateri and the readers of the *Monthly Message* this meant the passing of a dear friend, revered yet intimate, almost like one of the family, so endeared had he become to them through the bond of a common loyalty and a united effort for the achievement of a cherished goal. For a quarter of a century he worked incessantly to bring about the beatification of Kateri, the holy Indian Maid.

Father Wynne was born in New York City, September 30, 1859. He attended the College of St. Francis Xavier, receiving his A.B. degree before his seventeenth birthday. On August 24, 1890, he was ordained to the priesthood, and soon afterward began a career as writer and editor, a career in which he was to perform eminent service for the Church over a period of fifty-six years. In many respects his career has no parallel in the Church in the United States. He was truly a monumental figure in American ecclesiastical history.

In 1892 Father Wynne was appointed National Director of the Apostleship of Prayer and editor of the *Messenger of the Sacred Heart*. In 1900 he organized Holy Hour Devotions in the United States, starting at the Church of St. Francis Xavier, New York City. In 1905 he started laying the foundations for the *Catholic Encyclopedia*, described at his golden jubilee as the most important contribution in modern times to standard Catholic literature. In 1909 he founded the Catholic review, *America*, which has continued since that time to be one of the most influential publications in the English-speaking world.

Some years ago *America* asserted that Father Wynne has been "more closely associated with the North American martyrs . . . than any other human being on earth today. For more than fifty years he has been writing about them, and more than anyone else, labored (as vice-postulator) to prepare the information and popular devotion which hastened the canonization of the Martyrs."

In 1915, Father Wynne was State Chaplain of the Knights of Columbus of New York. He organized the League of the Daily Mass. He was made a Knight of the Order of Leopold II for his defense of the Belgians in Africa. His presentation of the facts about the

Dominican, Augustinian and Franciscan friars in the Philippines after the United States took control of the islands so impressed President Theodore Roosevelt that he wished to have it published by the Republican National Committee; Father Wynne presented it in the *Messenger of the Sacred Heart*, and secured justice for the friars.

Since 1923 Father Wynne was Vice-Postulator of the Cause of Kateri Tekakwitha, "the crown of the Jesuit Martyrs' labors and sacrifices." It would have brought him untold consolation to witness, during his lifetime, the beatification of the Lily of the Mohawks, but this was not to be. By lecture, leaflet, pamphlet and thousands of personal letters he has made Kateri known and loved throughout a large section of the world. Largely because of his efforts she was officially declared by the Church to have practised virtue in an heroic degree and she received the title of "Venerable" in 1942.

We, who knew Father Wynne's zealous and untiring efforts in promoting Venerable Kateri's Cause, feel assured that in her he has a powerful intercessor before the throne of God. We shall earnestly recommend his soul to her intercession and by our prayers and our efforts strive to hasten the day that would have rejoiced Father Wynne's heart — the day when the little Indian Maid will be officially enrolled among the Blessed.

A TRIBUTE

The passing of Father Wynne was the occasion of many a public tribute from the press. Prominent among these was the following editorial which appeared in the *Brooklyn Tablet*:

"With the death of Father John J. Wynne, S.J., the Society of Jesus has lost a true Religious, a great priest and one of her most illustrious scholars. A man known among men for his literary achievements, Father Wynne stood before his God last Tuesday evening to render what must have been a noble record of loyalty to the precepts of Christ and to the rule of his spiritual father, St. Ignatius Loyola. For he had not only a famous name and reputation but a character that was disciplined, was kind, was deeply spiritual, was humble. Those who were familiar with his tall, snow-white crowned figure and with his gentle manner know this world has lost one whose ideals and influence it could ill afford to lose.

"According to human standards Father Wynne accomplished many and tremendous tasks in his four score and ten years. He inspired that great international undertaking, the *Catholic Encyclopedia*. He was the first editor and founder of the national Catholic weekly, *America*, . . . and edited the *Messenger of the Sacred Heart*, which has been probably the most widely read Catholic family magazine for generations. He originated the practice of the Holy Hour in America. He popularized among the laity the habit of following the words of the priest at Mass by his translation of the Roman Missal into English.

But to Father Wynne himself the most satisfying labor of his life was the part he played in obtaining the recognition by the Universal Church of the sanctity of the North-American Martyrs. He worked and prayed, too, for the Beatification by the Church of the Indian maiden, Kateri Tekakwitha, but God did not grant him this consolation in his lifetime — perhaps the prayers of the living faithful may bring it about.

"More than two years ago, on the occasion of his 70th anniversary as a Jesuit, Father Wynne wrote: 'Reviewing the past, what I like most to dwell upon is how God enables certain chosen servants to do wonders without material resources and to reap good from evil.' He was speaking of others, yet he, too, assuredly, was such a chosen servant. May he rest in peace."

MESSAGE OF SYMPATHY

"It was with deep, sincere grief I read in *America* of the death of our dear and revered Father Wynne, and so I hasten to beg you who have succeeded him in his arduous but glorious task to offer for his soul the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass as my gift to him. It is my thank offering for his care in the matter of my numerous needs. The answers and the help resulting from his prayers for us to the Venerable Tekakwitha, while I could not call them miraculous, were indeed very encouraging and comforting. And so I want to give thanks, and to beg the continuance of his benign intercession and that of her whose Cause he so zealously promoted. So I enclose my offering, and beg to continue as one of Tekakwitha's mendicant disciples."

—San Francisco.

NEVER REFUSED

"Enclosed find offering which I promised to send for favors granted through prayers to the Lily of the Mohawks. The favors I asked were always answered, she has never refused me yet; at times it seemed impossible."

—Detroit.

INVALID HELPED

"Enclosed please find offering in honor of Kateri Tekakwitha in thanksgiving for successful extraction of teeth, including an impacted wisdom tooth, also for perfect dentures. Being an invalid, this work was done at home, and I was able to have the best dental surgeon do the work."

—Grand Rapids, Mich.

RIGHT ON TIME

"I made a novena to sell a piece of property in a hurry and on the fifth day of the novena I got a buyer. This is the second time little Tekakwitha has helped me on the fifth day in selling other property for my father."

—Miami.

RECOVERY

"I made a promise that I would send an offering if my prayers were answered when I begged Catherine Tekakwitha for help. My prayers were answered, for my little girl's eye is on the way to recovery. My everlasting thanks."

—New Orleans.

SOLUTION IN SIGHT

"In thanksgiving for help from Venerable Kateri and asking for further assistance in working out our financial difficulties, I promised her publication of her help so far and the enclosed small offering is evidence of my intention to give a more substantial offering on completion of our solution."

—Delta, Col.

FOR A SICK FRIEND

"Enclosed is a small offering to further the Cause of Katherine Tekakwitha. I am again begging her intercession for the recovery of a very sick friend. For the past thirteen years she has been very good to me, and I pray that God will see fit to grant, through her intercession, this great favor."

—Geneva, N. Y.

A GRATEFUL MOTHER

"Please accept the enclosed small offering in thanksgiving for the assistance Tekakwitha has given my daughter toward an improvement she has made in a minor physical ailment she has had for a number of years."

—Winchester, Ky.

SO OFTEN

"Quite some time ago I had some serious sickness in my home and I promised an offering to help in a small way toward the building of her Cabin if my mother got better. Kateri has come to the aid of me and mine so often."

—Boston.

"For some time I have been praying to Kateri Tekakwitha and am sending a small check in thanksgiving for the favors we have received. In the last year our youngest daughter has been married to a Catholic man. Last Sunday she had a little baby girl for which we really are thankful."

—Evansville, Ind.

"Enclosed please find check for the Cause of Tekakwitha's canonization. We feel that through her intercession many of our difficulties are being solved."—Providence, R. I.

"Enclosed is my Christmas present to 'Kateri' for the many favors received by me during this past year."—Philadelphia.

"Enclosed is small token in appreciation for favor received through the Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha. She has granted me several favors for which I am very grateful. Every day I pray that she may be canonized."

—Providence, R. I.

"Please accept this offering for past favor greatly appreciated—received through the intercession of Venerable Catherine."

—New Orleans.

"Little Katherine has come to our aid so many times—some very difficult times, I might say."

—Sioux Falls, S. D.

"Enclosed find offering to use as you see fit. I am still getting help in so many little

ways through little Katherine that I would like this as a thanksgiving."—Clyde, O.

"Catherine Tekakwitha has granted me a request. A check that was due me through delay. I promised her an offering. She has granted me many requests in time of need."

—Norwalk, Conn.

"We feel that 'Our Little Kateri' saved my granddaughter—she is now nine years old and is very devoted to Kateri Tekakwitha also."

—Thibodaux, La.

"Kindly accept the widow's mite for favors received from Tekakwitha."

—Hartford, Conn.

"Received many daily favors from 'My Catherine.'"

—Altoona, Pa.

ADDITIONAL FAVORS

Cures	2	Apartments	2
Financial Aid	4	Relief in Distress	3
Examination Success	3	Not Specified	47

PETITIONS

Cures	5	Apartments	5
Financial Aid	6	Not Specified	15

Obituary

Most Reverend Basil Takach, ~~Munhall~~, Pa.
 Right Reverend T. J. Devoy, ~~Manchester~~, N. H.
 Mrs. Mary A. Collins, ~~Floral Park~~, N. Y.
 Mr. William F. Mayer, Sr., ~~Louisville~~, Ky.
 Mr. John Machin, ~~Chicago~~, Ill.
 Mrs. John Machin, ~~Chicago~~, Ill.
 Mrs. Mary F. Sullivan, ~~St. Louis~~, Mo.

TO MAKE TEKAKWITHA KNOWN AND LOVED

LEAFLETS

- I—Medallion, prayer, sketch, favors.
 II—Novena, with daily reflexion.
 5c. for 2; 25c. a dozen

LIFE

By Wynne, 32 pages, illustrated, 12c.

MEDAL

Image and title "Lily of the Mohawks,"
 special metal, 15c.; silver, 60c.

PICTURES

- Small—with sketch and prayer 5c.
 " lithograph, color, sketch and prayer 10c.
 " lithograph, color, silk applied to relics 20c.
 Large—lithograph in color, 12½ x 8½ inches,
 mounted so as to need no frame; for
 class or private room 60c.

Prices include postage

Reduction on quantity

REV. JOHN KILLEEN, S.J., V. Postulator for Her Canonization

317 EAST FORDHAM ROAD, NEW YORK 58, N. Y.